

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From disapproval to change? Russia's population may surprise Putin at the next elections

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Most of the recent commentary around Russian politics has been focused largely on one issue, the high personal approval ratings of Vladimir Putin. But the Russian political system is complicated, and even the ruling force consists of many elements: government, the ruling 'United Russia' party, Parliament, regional governors, and so forth. There are strong and growing signs that the Russian population is deeply unhappy with the current situation, and that discontent has a chance to spill over into the territory of political consequences. Despite the fact that Putin's overall hold on the country remains largely unchallenged, authorities run a very serious risk of showing weak results at the upcoming Parliamentary elections in September 2016.

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